

Appl. No. 10/711,145  
Amdt. Dated 11/14/2006  
Reply to Office action of September 15, 2006

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Confirmation No. 5144

In re : Application of Chen, et al.  
For : **MAINTAINING UNIFORM CMP HARD MASK THICKNESS**  
Serial No. : 10/711,145  
Filed : August 27, 2004  
Group Art Unit : 2823  
Examiner : Phillip Green  
Our Docket No. : FIS920040211US1  
Customer No. : 24036

November 14, 2006

By Fax 571-273-8300

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

*Enter W/RAE*  
*AME-1*  
**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**

Sir:

This is in response to the Final Office Action dated September 15, 2006 having a shortened statutory period of response set to expire on December 15, 2006.

Please amend the referenced application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.

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